

# THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

*A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations: he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Lord."—JEREMIAH.*

No. 52, Vol. XXIII.

Saturday, Dec. 28, 1861.

Price One Penny.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST.

The year 1861, pregnant with so many important events, is now well nigh spent, and will soon be added to the list of by-gone years; and we think that, ere it fully closes upon us, it would be well if every reader of the *Star*, and indeed every member of the Church of the Saints in these lands, would earnestly ask himself or herself these questions:—What have I done during the year of 1861 towards helping on the work of God? How many souls have I been the honoured instrument of bringing into the fold of Christ—the Church? How many, through my efforts, or through the influence of my conduct, have been constrained to think and speak favourably of the religion whose cause I advocate? Totalling all up that I have done in various ways towards furthering the interests of the Church, and reflecting the light of its glorious principles upon the dark world around me, what does it all amount to? Have I done as much as my time and existing circumstances would allow? Have I considered the kingdom of God and its interests of paramount importance? or have I made it of secondary or even more distant consequence? What the better am I for my religion? Am I a better or a worse man or woman than I was before I embraced "Mormonism," as it is called by the world? Have I been improving as the

year's months and days have rolled on? or have I been standing still, while the work and its workers have been moving on before me? Have I been progressing in knowledge and wisdom, virtue and spiritual strength, as day after day of varied opportunities has dawned and waned over my head? or have I been retrograding—advancing backwards towards a state of apostacy and spiritual darkness?

There is really no standing still in spiritual life. We must be moving on, either backwards or forwards, heavenwards or hellwards, in righteousness or unrighteousness; so that if after having embraced the Gospel and covenanted to serve God by keeping his commandments, we do not progress in knowledge and righteousness as we ripen in experience, we must necessarily be losing ground by travelling in the wrong direction.

When the light of Divine truth has once found its way into the mind, it will either save or condemn its possessor, according to his application of it. Like a keen-edged blade in the hands of a workman, it may be used to advantage, or, by being misapplied, become the instrument of untold mischief, and finally, perhaps, ruin. The keener the edge, the greater its capability of working good on the one hand, or evil on the other.

"Mormonism," as our religion is termed by those who know least of it, is just such an instrument. In the possession of a wise and righteous man, its doctrines and principles can be rendered effective of great and incalculable good; while, in the hands of an unrighteous, apostate, merely nominal

professor of the truth, it will prove destructive not only to himself, but perchance to others who take refuge under his example and influence. Like a two-edged sword, it will cut two ways; and woe, woe be to him who wields it unwisely or unrighteously!

## HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH.

(Continued from page 818.)

Councillor Levi Richards said he had felt deeply on this subject, and concurred fully in the view General Smith had expressed of it this day; thought it unnecessary to repeat what the Council perfectly understood; considered private interest as nothing in comparison with the public good. Every time a line was formed in Far West, he was there—for what? To defend it against just such scoundrels and influence as the *Nauvoo Expositor* and its supporters were directly calculated to bring against us again. Considered the doings of the Council this day of immense moment, not to this city alone, but to the whole world; would go in to put a stop to the thing at once. Let it be thrown out of this city, and the responsibility of countenancing such a press be taken off our shoulders and fall on the State, if corrupt enough to sustain it.

Councillor Phineas Richards said that he had not forgotten the transaction at Haun's Mill, and that he recollected that his son George Spencer then lay in the well referred to on the day previous, without a winding-sheet, shroud, or coffin. He said he could not sit still when he saw the same spirit raging in this place. He considered the publication of the *Expositor* as much murderous at heart as David was before the death of Uriah; was for making a short work of it; was prepared to take his stand by the Mayor, and whatever he proposes; would stand by him to the last. The quicker it is stopped the better.

Councillor Phelps had investigated the Constitution, Charter, and laws. The power to declare that office a nuisance is granted to us in the Springfield Charter, and a resolution declaring it a nuisance is all that is required.

John Birney sworn. Said Francis

M. Higbee and Wm. Law declared they had commenced their operations, and would carry them out, *law or no law*.

Stephen Markham sworn. Said that Francis M. Higbee said the interest of this city is done the moment a hand is laid on their press.

Councillor Phelps continued, and referred to Wilson Law in destroying the character of a child—an orphan child, who had the charge of another child.

Warren Smith sworn. Said F. M. Higbee came to him, and proposed to have him go in as a partner in making bogus money. Higbee said he would not work for a living; that witness might go in with him, if he would advance fifty dollars; and showed him (witness) a half-dollar which he said was made in his own dies.

Councillor Phelps continued and said he felt deeper this day than ever he felt before, and wanted to know, by "Yes," if there was any person who wanted to avenge the blood of that innocent female who had been seduced by the then Major-General of the Nauvoo Legion, Wilson Law; when "Yes!" resounded from every quarter of the house. He then referred to the tea plot at Boston, and asked if anybody's rights were taken away with that transaction; and are we offering, or have we offered to take away the rights of any one these two days? ("No!" resounded from every quarter.) He then referred also to Law's grinding the poor during the scarcity of grain, while the poor had nothing but themselves to grind; and spoke at great length in support of active measures to put down iniquity, and suppress the spirit of mobocracy.

Alderman Harris spoke from the chair, and expressed his feelings that the press ought to be demolished.

The following resolution was then

read and passed unanimously, with the exception of Councillor Warrington:—

“Resolved, by the City Council of the city of Nauvoo, that the printing-office from whence issues the *Nauvoo Expositor* is a public nuisance, and also all of said *Nauvoo Expositors* which may be or exist in said establishment; and the Mayor is instructed

to cause said printing establishment and papers to be removed without delay, in such manner as he shall direct.

Passed June 10th, 1844.

GEORGE W. HARRIS,

President *pro tem.*

W. Richards, Recorder.

*To be continued.)*

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## THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1861.

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### RETROSPECT OF THE YEAR.

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WITH this number the twenty-third Volume of the *Star* is completed. As we announce the close of the year's labour, the thoughts suggest themselves and queries arise, Has the *Star* afforded such light to our readers that they have been enabled to see their pathway more clearly than they would have done had they been destitute of it? Have they been instructed, strengthened, comforted, and incited to greater diligence by the teachings and counsels it has contained? Have the Saints, through its aid, progressed in the knowledge of God and obtained broader and more comprehensive views of their holy religion? Have the Elders derived a higher appreciation of their duties and obligations from the contents of its columns and judicious and profitable enlightenment and aid in counselling the Saints and directing the affairs of their ministry? Has the world received any additional evidences and testimonies respecting the great work which God has established through his servant Joseph Smith, and for which that servant laid down his life? If these questions can be answered in the affirmative, then indeed has this twenty-third Volume of the *Millennial Star* not been published in vain, and our exertions have not been fruitless. Another book has been written and sent forth on its mission to the world. To the lovers of truth it has and will, doubtless, convey happiness and joy; but to those who wilfully and persistently reject the message of love and mercy which it bears it will be another witness against them to increase their condemnation and future misery.

In entering upon and endeavouring to discharge the responsibilities of our present position, we have been sensibly conscious of our weakness, and have regretted that we have not been able to do more; yet we have had joy and satisfaction in our labours from their commencement at the beginning of the year until the present time. We sincerely trust that everything we have said and done during this period has been acceptable to our God, satisfactory to our fellow-servants, and beneficial to our brethren and sisters. The knowledge of having had (conjointly with our brethren) the faith and prayers of the brethren in Zion and the Elders and Saints among whom our lot has been cast in these lands, has been consoling and encouraging. From these sources there is assistance and power to be obtained, which we have realized.



In taking a retrospect of the year, we are impressed, in looking at the nations of Babylon, with the numerous disasters they have experienced, attended with great loss of life, and the gloomy and discouraging future there is before them at the termination of this year. War, in its most horrid form and with all its attendant wretchedness and misery, is raging in the midst of the American Union. That once happy nation is rent asunder, and has become a prey to civil discord. This fratricidal war, so repulsive and terrible in every feature, overshadows every other throughout the earth. The war between the Turks and the Montenegrins, and that which is of almost periodical occurrence between the Russians and the Circassians and other mountaineers, with the fighting in Italy between Francis II. and his followers and Victor Emmanuel, and the war in New Zealand between the English and the Maoris, with the vengeance inflicted by British men-of-war upon the coast of Africa, under the name of justice, all sink into insignificance when compared with the civil war raging in the United States. Nations stand aghast at the sight of so young and promising and great a nation committing the crime of self-destruction. Besides these actual wars, there have been disturbances in Russia among the serfs and the students, in Poland against the Russian Government, and in Hungary against the Austrian Government. There are the difficulties also in Mexico, to settle which and to obtain the rights of their citizens, (which they say have been trampled upon,) England, France, and Spain have sent out a joint expedition.

Of shipwrecks there have been a great number during the year. In the months of February and November the coasts of Great Britain were visited with storms of great violence, during which many souls perished and hundreds of vessels were lost and stranded; and in the storm of February numerous buildings received severe damage. Several ships of war and ocean steamers have also been lost. On board of one of the former, a Russian ship, the *Swellana*, lost near Japan, there were 800 souls perished; and of the latter no less than seventeen vessels have been lost in one trade—the Baltic, some of them foundering at sea, and not a soul escaping to tell the sad tale.

There have been floods in Holland covering vast quantities of cultivated land, washing away houses and every improvement, and resulting in great loss of life to man and beast.

Of earthquakes there has been one particularly noteworthy—that of Mendoza, a city in La Plata, near the foot of the Andes, and about 150 miles east of Valparaiso. The city was overwhelmed, and between seven and eight thousand souls perished by the catastrophe. There has also been a seaquake—the sea heaving itself beyond its bounds—on the island of Simo, near Sumatra, by which a large number of houses were destroyed and nearly a thousand lives lost.

There have been eruptions from Jebel Dubbeh, on the coast of Abyssinia, and from Vesuvius. The stream of lava from the latter was three-fourths of a mile in width, and twenty feet deep, and had partly destroyed the town of Torre-del-Greco at last accounts.

Railway accidents during the year in Great Britain have been unusually frequent, and the loss of life has been fearful. Fires have also been numerous, and in some instances very extensive. One which occurred in the city of London early in the summer is estimated to have consumed from £1,500,000 to £2,500,000 sterling. There is said to have been no such fire there since the great fire of 1666. Immense quantities of flour, rice, sugar, coffee, pepper, tallow, cotton,



hemp, and oil were consumed by the devouring element. There have been exceedingly destructive fires also at Trautensau, Bohemia; at Glarus, Switzerland; and at Antwerp, Belgium; the two first places being almost totally destroyed.

In India there has been great destruction and loss of life. Storms, pestilence, and famine have performed their terrible missions in that unhappy land. Peshawur, Afghanistan, was visited by a violent storm and made a heap of ruins; and Benares, Hindostan, suffered dreadfully from the destructive effects of a similar visitation. In Candahar from six to seven hundred died daily from cholera, and several British regiments were more than decimated. Throughout the greater part of India large numbers have died during the year for the want of food, as many as four or five hundred dying daily in some places, and women selling their own children for the merest trifle to buy food to save themselves from perishing,

Among crowned heads and famous men, Death has been busy during the year. His victims among rulers have been a King of Prussia, a King of Portugal, a Sultan of Turkey, an Emperor of China, and a Queen of Madagascar. Among statesmen, the name of Cavour stands prominently forward. In him, Italy lost a greater than a king. America has lost Douglas and a host of lesser lights; Russia, Prince Gortschakoff, whose name is intimately connected with her war in the Crimea; and England, her Lord Chancellor, the Duchess of Kent, Sir James Graham, and other notabilities; and lastly her recent calamitous loss in the death of the illustrious Prince Consort.

The year closes gloomily upon the nations of Babylon. The horizon is begirt with lowering and threatening storm-clouds. Rulers sit uneasily on their thrones. There is scarcely a nation whose peace is not threatened. Wars and rumours of war fill the earth, and men's hearts fail them in looking forward to the events which appear to be near at hand. Russia is threatened with revolution, Austria with insurrection, Denmark with war by Prussia, and England by America. Turkey is already at war. Italy is unsettled, distracted by civil strife and brigandage, and surrounded by dangers. France is involved in financial difficulties, from which it will require all the dexterous management and contrivance of her Emperor and his most able ministers to extricate her. Rome is menaced, and the Pope looks around him in dismay at the flood of revolution which surges up to the very gates of the "eternal city" itself. Almost stripped of his dominions, he yet clings to his temporal power with tenacity, and, alternately pleading and threatening, he seeks to bring to his aid the Catholic Powers of Europe.

But in turning one's attention from the nations of Babylon to the kingdom of God, the contrast in their peace, happiness, and prosperity is very striking. It is apparent that the kingdom has taken a wonderful stride forward. The year has been fruitful in blessings for the Saints of God. Thousands have gathered from Babylon to Zion. Peace—that blessing so rare, and which is becoming more and more rare among men—has been richly enjoyed. The Church has increased in numbers, and hundreds have been caused to rejoice in the truth, having been brought from ignorance and darkness to knowledge and light. For all that the Lord has done for Zion through the past year, we cannot be too thankful.

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NEWS FROM SCANDINAVIA.—Elder Van Cott, in a letter written under date of Dec. 14, informs us that the spirit to emigrate exceeds anything he ever witnessed before in that country, and that every effort is being made to accomplish that object.

**WANTED.**—Wanted at this Office Numbers 18, 21, 24, 31, 32, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42 of the *Star*. If any of the Book Agents should have any of these Numbers on hand, they would oblige by returning them to 42, Islington, Liverpool, without delay, as they are particularly required, in order to complete Volumes. Credit will be given for them on receipt.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### LINCOLNSHIRE CONFERENCE.

Grantham, Dec. 16, 1861.

President Cannon.

Dear Brother,—We are still increasing our numbers by baptism. I am very happy to inform you that, notwithstanding the opposition we have had to contend with in respect to getting a new meeting-room, we have at last succeeded. We met in it yesterday for the first time, and had the largest congregation the Saints in Grantham have witnessed for years. We also had the pleasure, yesterday, of confirming four new members, and two that had renewed their covenants. It fills my heart with gratitude to participate in the progress of the work of God in this place, and I do trust that his good Spirit will continue to increase upon us, that we may be fully qualified for the further development of his divine purposes.

With continued desires and prayers for your welfare, I am your affectionate brother,

JOHN LINDSAY.

#### MANCHESTER CONFERENCE.

Droylsden, Dec. 16, 1861.

President Cannon.

Dear Brother,—I am happy to inform you that we are moving a-head in the Manchester Branch. Our meetings are well attended by strangers, the spirit of union is increasing among the Priesthood, and the members are beginning to wake up to their own interests and the interest of the kingdom of God, which of course are identical. The result is that baptisms are frequent. We recently confirmed six new members at one time. Many old ones are returning also. The area over which our Branch operations extend is very great, and includes not only a densely-populated city of some 550,000 people, but many suburbs fast rising into towns, among which there is a deep, anxious, and earnest spirit of inquiry concerning

many of the doctrines of our Church, and the views of our people with regard to the future, which may, by an enlightened and energetic Priesthood, at this critical period, be turned to good account. In some parts, therefore, we have as it were broken loose from our old moorings and commenced a new plan of operations; and, thus inaugurated, we have so far successfully carried on a winter's campaign, which has already been productive of much good. It has brought a great number of strangers to become better acquainted with our principles, and induced many to avail themselves of our week-night meetings. Hence our prospects in the future are remarkably good.

Praying that God may bless and crown your efforts with success, I am your brother in the bonds of truth,

JOHN SCHOFIELD.

#### SCANDINAVIAN MISSION.

Hjorring, Dec. 9, 1861.

President G. Q. Cannon.

Dear Brother,—The work of God is rolling onward rapidly, as usual, in this remote corner of the Lord's vineyard. Our meetings are excessively crowded wherever we go. I am almost astounded at times to witness the increase of faith and good works and firmness we find in the Branches. Some of the old Branches, whose vigour and strength we fancied were exhausted, or partly so, are now increasing in magnitude and strength, showing a determination not to be of the worn-out class. Many who formerly knew comparatively nothing about our principles are coming to our meetings, sometimes cursing such a delusion as "Mormonism;" but, on hearing and seeing the talk and proceedings among the supposed deluded people, they retire with astonishment, and declare that they never heretofore have met with a better people or heard such sound and reasonable doctrine as we teach, and they become our friends.

The more thinking minds among them do not satisfy themselves without further investigation and trial. Here are many who have watched the progress of this work for years, and have things somewhat prepared to launch from these shores, but perhaps not before the arrows and stones of a Roman army are felt inside the walls of Jerusalem.

On my return from Sweden I baptized a family of Swedish origin on the shore where I landed. I also baptized a man whose wife joined the Church

years back. They required some information concerning their emigration, as they are ready to go with the first company.

We have baptized 77 souls in this Conference, and 30 in Aalborg, during last quarter. More than 200 Saints in Aalborg will emigrate. I do not know how many will go from here, but I expect a similar number.

Your fellow-labourer in Christ,

A. CHRISTENSEN.

## SUMMARY OF NEWS AND PASSING EVENTS.

ENGLAND.—For the second time in one brief year, death has entered the Royal family. His Royal Highness the Prince Consort died at Windsor Castle on the 14th instant, at ten minutes to eleven o'clock, in the 43rd year of his age. Thus, in the prime of life, surrounded by every earthly blessing, in the midst of public usefulness, in the full enjoyment of domestic bliss, and rich in the nation's respect and confidence, the husband of our beloved Queen, at the time above mentioned, in the presence of her Majesty and the Royal children, tranquilly breathed his last. He sank under fever of a typhoid character.

IRELAND.—A shock of earthquake has been recently felt at Tullamore.

AUSTRIA.—Advices from Vienna of the 10th inst. state that, during the Emperor's stay at Venice, he ordered all the political prisoners to be set at liberty, with one or two exceptions.

ITALY.—A gang of about 40 malefactors, some of them in the disguise of carabineers or gendarmes, and of guards of public security, or policemen, effected their entrance into the railway station, and, tying up the company's servants with ropes, carried away, overpowering all resistance, a sum of 100,000*fr.* which lay there by chance, and of which, in all probability, they had obtained clandestine knowledge. The building opposite to the House of Legislation, the Carignano Palace, was broken into by burglars, who forced open the strong-box and took possession of the sums it contained. This same ill-starred night the sentry on duty at the gate of the Arsenal, near the Piazza d'Armi, was fired upon at 11 o'clock by some unknown and invisible person with a pistol, which shattered the poor soldier's arm. Since the atrocious murder of the two police inspectors, Fumagalli and Grasselli, at Bologna, that city, in the midst of all its terror and distraction, has been left almost without actual government of any

kind. The National Guard, owing to disagreement between its superior officers and men, is dissolved. Another conspiracy has been discovered at Naples. Several domiciliary visits have taken place, and 13 persons have been arrested.

TURKEY.—Hostilities have entirely ceased in the Herzegovina. The Turkish troops who were posted at Piva have been distributed among the towns of Gatzcodejubinje-Stolaz and Mostar. The irregular troops have been disbanded.

INDIA.—An income-tax riot has taken place in Assam, in which Lieut. Singer, Assistant-Commissioner, was beaten to death.

AMERICA.—Mr. Bernhisel, Delegate from Utah, presented the Constitution which was formed by the Convention of Delegates assembled at Great Salt Lake City, Utah, in March last, accompanied by a memorial asking Congress to admit that Territory into the Union as a State on an equal footing with the original States. Jennison's men are in Jackson county, Missouri, devastating the country; and various parties of armed rebels have gone into that section with the avowed purpose of driving them out. Washington despatches state that President Lincoln avows his purpose of preserving a cautious and prudent policy with regard to foreign relations, and that there needs be no fear of war with Great Britain, unless the latter Government seeks a pretext for hostilities. No anxiety is felt by the Administration on this subject. Mr. Breckenridge has been expelled from the Senate. A committee had been appointed to consider the expediency of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia. Government had ordered the release of a fugitive slave who was confined at Washington. A Dutch fleet of eleven vessels was off Laguayra on November 17th to demand satisfaction from the Venezuela Government for having trampled on the Dutch flag.



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## VARIETIES.

**HOW TO RESTORE WRITING.**—Writing which has become illegible by age may be restored by moistening it with an infusion of galls.

**HORRORS OF CIVIL WAR IN MISSOURI.**—"Doubtless no pen will ever describe these horrors in their full extent and terrible blackness. Thoughtful men prophesied, before the war set in, awful scenes, without probably comprehending a tithe of the distress, woe, and horrors which were in store for our scourged people. If one will open the pages of *Edmund Burke*, and scan the picture he has painted of the war in the Carnatic, he will have a faint idea of the waste and ruin which have desolated so large a part of our afflicted State. Read anywhere the history of the civil broils which have in different ages and among different people, set neighbour against neighbour, and given a field of employment for the robbers and ravagers of property, and the assassins of reputation and life—which have covered almost every square league of territory with hostile camps—which have spilt the blood of citizens in battle or in murder—which have carried terror over the whole districts and into the innumerable homes—which have set brother against brother, father against son, in mortal strife, and a faint idea may be gathered of the dreadful condition to which Missouri is this day reduced. Her own children imbrue their hands in each other's blood, and fire each other's dwellings; while enemies from without, who come in panting to glut a revenge which is insatiable, rejoicingly assist in this devilish work, and to add to its horrors and abominations. To-day a Union leader, as was Cook in the western part of the State recently, will be seized and his life taken on the spot; to-morrow a judge of one of the courts, who sympathized with the South, will be murdered, while a close prisoner in the hands of the head of an armed force, who has sworn to protect him, but cannot make good his pledge, and the case seems almost hopeless. There is no balm in Gilead, and no physician there. Missouri has within her borders no men who can, as Missourians, stand up, and, facing those dreadful exigencies, tell her people how they could be met, and what is the remedy. There is mutual hate and distrust. No man believes another honest in any course of pacification that either may recommend. Men are prone to think and believe the worst of each other. It is a time when every private enemy can gratify his revenges, for there is nothing that malice can invent which will not be credited by one man of any other man who even so much as differs in opinion from him. At such a time, this distressed and harassed people ought to welcome, even from without, any administration which promises to govern with a wisdom adequate to the emergency. We have a confidence in the power now pending here, and we cherish hopes that, through the justice and discrimination of its exercise, some relief may be promised for our unhappy State."—*New York Journal of Commerce*.

## POETRY.

## A SONG.

Let us sing the songs of Zion, though far away we  
roam;  
The glorious hope rely on to soon be gathered home  
To that land of truth and beauty, for the day  
is drawing nigh:  
His Saints to cheer, Christ will appear, majestic  
from the sky.  
Let us practise every principle of righteousness  
revealed,  
For we know a strict obedience will choicest bless-  
ings yield,  
Paddington.

If we ask in faith, believing God will open up our  
way  
To gather home, no more to roam, but serve him  
day by day.  
Let us pray when cares surround us and enemies  
oppose,  
For in healing balm around the Holy Spirit flows;  
The Comforter is sent again, with joy we now  
proclaim,  
The Saints to guide, though foes deride, till Jesus  
comes to reign.

ELLEN HARPER.

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## LIVERPOOL:

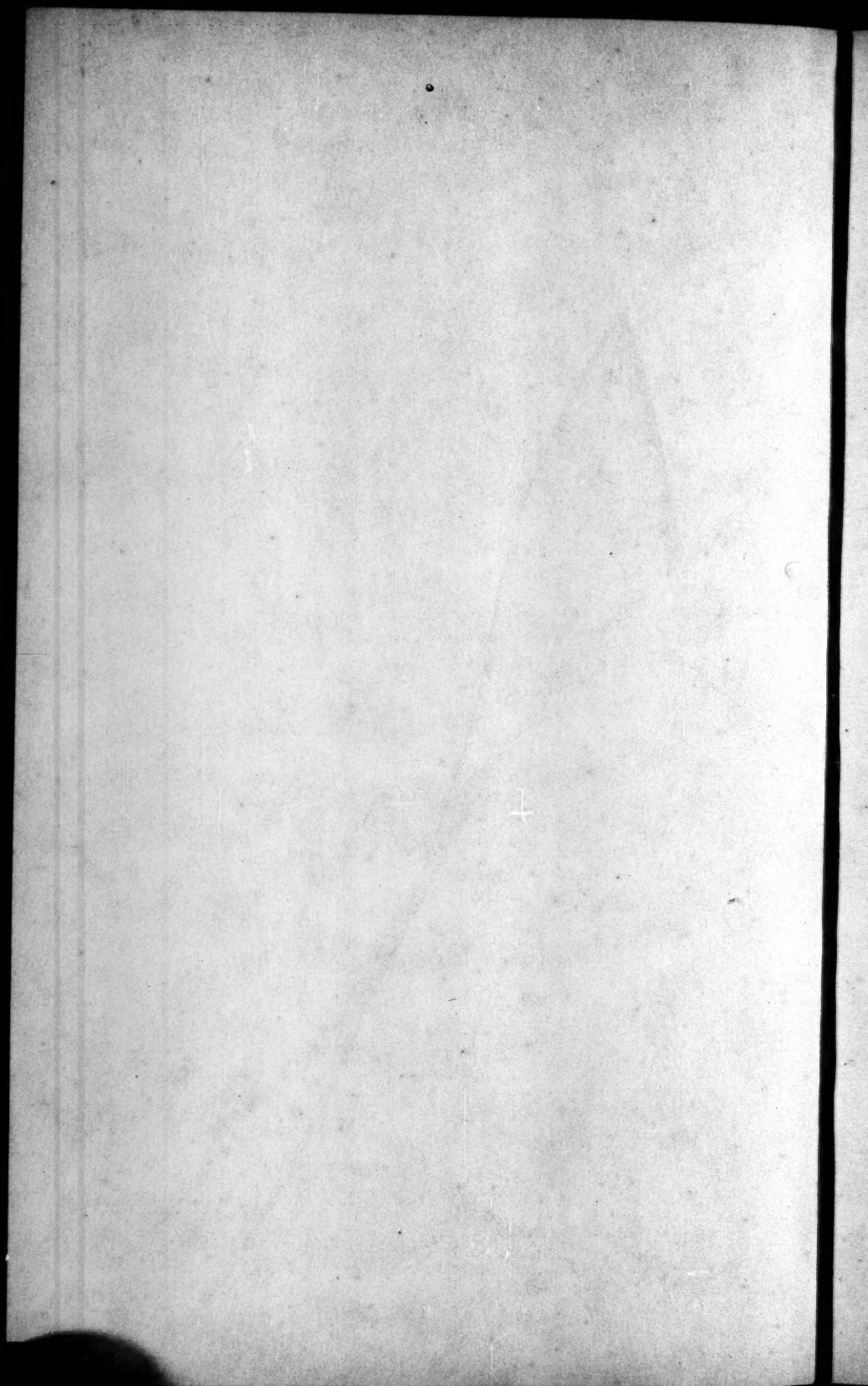
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